



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

May 19, 2015

Felon Charged with Mayhem, Robbery, Assault of Girlfriend in Pomona

A 27-year-old man accused of beating his girlfriend in Pomona pleaded not guilty today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Mario Soto (dob 2/24/88) of Bell has been charged with four felony counts: mayhem, second-degree robbery, injuring a girlfriend and assault with a firearm in case KA109731.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that Soto personally used a handgun and inflicted great bodily injury on the victim during the commission of the crime.

Additionally, the charging document alleges the defendant was previously convicted of attempted carjacking in 2007 and carjacking in 2009.

Deputy District Attorney Miriam Avalos, who is assigned to the case, said on May 7, Soto traveled to his girlfriend's Pomona home and the two got into a fight.

During the altercation, Soto reportedly hit the girlfriend in the face with a gun, the prosecutor said. Soto then allegedly knocked the victim to the ground, dragged her through the street and kicked her in the stomach, the prosecutor added.

The victim's father came out of his home to see what was occurring, at which point Soto fled the scene with the victim's purse, the prosecutor said. Hours later, the victim's mother called law enforcement after the defendant returned to the location.

Soon after, police arrived in the area, located Soto and he was arrested.

Soto is scheduled to return to court for a preliminary hearing on June 16 in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of 65 years to life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the Pomona Police Department.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.